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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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# **SIX INDICTED FOR MORTGAGE FRAUD CONSPIRACY**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on June 20, 2002, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a 23 count indictment against Marco Vasquez, DOB 8/6/1062, of Glendale, Arizona; and also charging Sandra Rodriguez, 9/21/1969, of Phoenix, Arizona; Jose Alvarado, 4/22/1958, of Phoenix, Arizona; Lorena Soledad, 8/9/1963, of Peoria, Arizona; Stacy R. Ghazi, 8/7/1972, of Chandler, Arizona, and Lonny Brooks, 12/10/1971, of Glendale, Arizona.

The indictment alleges that Vasquez, Rodriguez, Alvarado and Soledad, while employed as loan officers at the Hispanic Loan Center (HLC) of American Financial Resources, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona, conspired to knowingly submitting false statements to the U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by submitting false employment and income documents, as well as credit reports in order to qualify mortgage applicants for FHA-insured home loans. The indictment further alleges, that Brooks, a self-employed computer technician, assisted in the conspiracy by providing false wage documents to Vasquez, Rodriguez, and Alvarado. Brooks is also alleged to have provided instruction to the loan officers on methods of creating pay stubs and IRS W-2 forms through the use of a computer. The indictment alleges

(MORE)

that Ghazi, the former branch manager of Credit Reporters, Tempe, Arizona, assisted in the conspiracy by providing Vasquez with false credit reports for HLC clients.

The federal indictment charges all the defendants with one count of Conspiracy, in violation with of Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 371. Twenty-two counts of the indictment charge the mortgage loan officers with Submitting False Statements to HUD in order to obtain FHA insured mortgages in excess of one million dollars, in violation of Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1010.

A conviction for conspiracy carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Submitting False Statements to HUD carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the HUD Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations.

The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-634-PHX  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-113

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